



## JCI Black Tie Fundraising Ball 2007 goes Pink

The Aruba chapter of the Junior Chamber International (JCI) held their annual black tie fundraising dinner dance on Saturday evening in the Palm Beach Ballroom of the Westin Resort. Dave Martinus, president of JCI welcomed the gathering and commended them for supporting this year's recipient of the proceeds from the event, the Wilhelmina Cancer Foundation. This year, the gala dinner dance was renamed "The Pink Ribbon & Black Tie" event, to encourage breast cancer awareness.

Local media personality Cherryldine Muller, who is also quite active in the cause of breast cancer awareness and prevention, acted as MC for the evening. Dave Martinus began the night with a tribute to the organizers of the fund raising event, "The Black Tie Committee," Liz-Marie Flanegin, Julienne Croes, and Joanna Burne, with a special trophy for Project Leader Rosetna Mariana.

To bring home the message of breast cancer awareness and the ordeal with which victims of the disease suffer and can conquer, he brought before the audience his very special guest, Dora Kock. Dora has endured quite some heartbreak in her life, having her son Jenny become seriously disabled by an accident when he was a child. Jenny has gone on to live with his physical deficiencies and become an artist of island and international repute. Over twelve years ago, Dora was diagnosed with incurable breast cancer, and doctors gave her little chance of survival. Her daughter Madeline, attending the dinner with her, tearfully recollects when they went to Holland in one last desperate attempt to prolong her life, and "there the doctors took so much from her. In Aruba, they had told us to stop hanging on and let her go, but we just couldn't. It was a long and difficult time, but she is still with us today."

"We are here to celebrate the lives of those that have survived," expressed Dave Martinus, "to give hope to all those in the battle, and also to give faith to those that have given up." He then asked for a minute of silence for those that have lost their lives to breast cancer, but then introduced Doris as an example to all of how faith and an indomitable spirit of "never giving up" in this twelve-year breast cancer survivor is an inspiration to us all. Both Dora and Lily Prince, Director of the Wilhelmina Cancer Foundation were honored that evening with lifelong memberships in the JCI.

The evening finished on a festive note with an elegant dinner from the Westin Aruba culinary staff and dancing to the bands Search and Robert y su Solo Band until the wee hours of the morning!